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2012

Interview of Cherylyn Rush

Cherylyn Rush

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Linda Sago

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FIELD NOTES

Interviewee/Narrator: Mrs. Cherylyn Rush

Interviewer: Linda Sago

Interview Date(s): March 12, 2012 and March 19, 2012

Interview Location: Multicultural and International Center at LaSalle University

There are two parts to this interview with two separate dates.

The Interviewee:

Cherylyn Landora Edwards Rush was born October 1959 in Shirley, Massachusetts. Mrs. Rush moved to Pennsylvania at a very young age. Her father was in the military. Her parents Pearl and Lester Edwards met at a military function in Fort Dix, New Jersey. After her parents divorced, Cherylyn's mother fell ill, to what we now know as ovarian cancer. Mrs. Edwards passed away when Cherylyn was about seven years old. Her grandmother Louise Jackson then cared for Cherylyn. Mrs. Jackson cared for Cherylyn and her siblings until Cherylyn and her sister went to live with their father. Mr. Edwards had remarried. He was still in the military and Cherylyn actually liked her new home. She lived there until she was in high school. When Cherylyn's father and her stepmother divorced, she came back to Philadelphia, PA and attended William Penn High School. Cherylyn was always active in school activities. She earned her high school diploma although she was pregnant with her son. Being a young mother did not stop Cherylyn from having a great heart and wanting to help others. Her life experiences has helped mold her into the woman that she is today. She has been a Lasallian for more than 25 years. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology at La Salle University and is now pursuing a Master's degree.

The Interviewer:

I, Linda Sago (born 1971 in Philadelphia, PA), grew up in the Nice town section of North Philadelphia, PA. I am an only child. My parents have been married for 40 years. I have one daughter. I live in Elkins Park, PA. I have been in the work force since I was 16 years old. I fell in love with earning my own money and later learned to love my independence. I work for an organization called the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG®). I have been working at my place of employment for ten years. I earned my B.S. in Business Administration from Pierce College 2011. I am pursuing my Masters degree at La Salle University. History for Educators is the program of which I am studying. Although, I enjoy the work I do, I am excited to change my profession to teaching at a college or University. Becoming a history professor is a short-term goal. I also plan to start my own payroll business, do quarterly, monthly and annual taxes for small businesses.

Background:

After discussing my choices for my final project oral history interviewee with Dr. Allen, I sent Brother Joseph Grabenstein an email for some information on which Lasallian to choose for my project. He advised me that he had spoken with Dr. Allen and had two people in mind for me to interview. Out of the two people, I asked if it would be okay to contact Cherylyn Rush. He said that would be great. Brother Joe also had some background information on Mrs. Rush, which made it a little helpful for me to compose my questions for the interview.

I carefully read the information that Brother Joe provided to make sure I would ask questions that Mrs. Rush would be able to elaborate on. I needed to be careful of how I word or ask the questions to get a detailed response. When I compiled my questions, I sent them to Dr. Allen for some advice and her approval. She offered me great advice and some additional information as “food for thought” to add to my list of questions. I revised my list of questions and resubmitted the new questions to Dr. Allen for her approval.

I called Mrs. Rush to introduce myself and explain my mission. She agreed to do the assignment. She had a few questions. I sent Mrs. Rush an excerpt from our syllabus for our oral history course for her to have a better understanding of the assignment and what both of our roles would be. It was a pleasure speaking with Mrs. Rush as Brother Joe said it would be. After an exchange of emails, Mrs. Rush and I set a date for our first interview. She was very considerate of my schedule and she offered to accommodate me. Since it was a mandatory assignment, I was willing to meet at her convenience. She offered to meet me on campus on a day that I had class. She stated that she didn’t want to inconvenience me to have to come to the campus on a day off from school. I thought that was profoundly considerate of her.

Description of the Interview:

We met at her office on Monday, March 12, 2012. Her office is in the Multicultural and International Center on the corner of 20th Street and Olney Avenue. (1900 West Olney Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19141 *actual address*) The day of the first interview, I made contact with Mrs. Rush to make sure we would still have our interview at the agreed upon time of 4:30pm. I arrived very early for the interview. I wanted to be sure to be on time. I left work early that day. As I waited for Mrs. Rush, I was re-reading the information that Brother Joe had given me about Mrs. Rush and reviewing my questions. Mrs. Rush was on time and very kind. She made me feel welcomed and comfortable. Although I was still a little nervous as the interview started, I felt a little bit more relaxed. I explained how I needed the legal release forms signed and Mrs. Rush happily agreed to sign them. I did not request her signature at the initial interview. I gave her a copy of the release form to have, so that she would understand what she was signing up for. She agreed to sign it. We began interview part I. After our interview session of about 55minutes was over, we set a date for part II of the interview session. Monday, March 19 @ 4:30pm worked for both of us.

On Monday, March 19, I was running late because I realized I left my voice recorder at home on the dining room table. I was about 5 minutes late. I was really disgusted with myself, because an important rule for interviewing someone is to “never show up late”. However, Mrs. Rush did not

make an issue about it. I gave her the release forms again to sign and give back to me. After she did that, our interview part II began. This time the interview was for a little more than an hour. We were both a little bit more comfortable this time. We were in a conference room on the first floor to the right of the entrance of the building, instead of in her office on the second floor for the second part of the interview. We both had bottled water this time. We did not get dehydrated for the first interview, but having the water was helpful for part II, especially for Mrs. Rush since she was doing the talking. For the first interview we had an idea what we needed to do, but for the part II we were both very clear on what we needed to accomplish. Mrs. Rush was well prepared and very pleasant for both interview sessions. After the interview session was completed. I talked to Mrs. Rush about what I needed to do to submit this project to my professor. I also, promised Mrs. Rush a copy of the interview audio files and transcripts.

Once I started to transcribe the interview, I realized that I hadn't asked Mrs. Rush how to spell her middle name. I also hadn't asked her what her parents' names and her grandmother. These were very important questions that I needed answers to in order to complete my assignment. Immediately, I sent Mrs. Rush an email. She responded right away with answers for my questions. I proceeded to transcribe the interview with the correct information and correct spelling of everyone's name.

Hopefully, I asked questions that will help others to learn more about her. She is an interesting person with a very humble background and a determined spirit. She is driven to succeed and pursue better for herself, her family and those that she encountered at La Salle University and the community.

Note on recording device:

For recording both interviews with Mrs. Rush, I used my Olympus digital voice recorder VN-8000PC. I did not need to use an additional microphone. After the interview was completed, I connected the recording device to the USB port to my desktop and uploaded the audio files in *wav* format onto two separate discs, one disc for each interview session.

Editing the Transcript:

My editing decisions included:

- 1) excluding my use of the word "ok" and the word "and"
- 2) excluding Mrs. Rush's use of "umm"
- 3) eliminating the "and so" combination words to make it easier to read.
- 4) excluding some of the comments "you know" that would break up a sentence and cause it not to read properly.
- 5) { } using brackets for inaudible words
- 6) [] to express exhalations or laughter and other non-verbal sounds
- 7) I omitted repetitive words spoken in the same tone. If the repetitive words had different emphasis, I left them in the context
- 8) *Italics* are used to show when the narrator is quoting someone else.
- 9) () using parenthesis and *italics* to explain a word(s)

- 10) providing annotations in the footnotes for different explanations